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PAT. & TRADEMARK THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No. 26.2.965/USA

In re Application of:

Steve A. Sallstrom et al.

Serial No. 08/192,022

Filed February 3, 1994

For ALL WHEEL HYDRAULIC
DRIVE SYSTEM

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) Group Art Unit 3506
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) Examiner T. Melius
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**SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT AND
SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS**

The Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Background

The Examiner's communication dated September 5, 1995, found that the Amendment previously filed on July 10, 1995, while comprising a bona fide attempt to respond, was non-responsive because the remarks did not refer to specific claim language when arguing patentability. Moreover, the Examiner stated that the previous Amendment did not specifically point out what claims were being argued. The Examiner's communication dated September 5, 1995, required clarification of these matters and provided a ONE MONTH period for response.

This Supplemental Amendment And Supplemental Remarks is being filed to comply with the requirements of the Examiner's communication dated September 5, 1995. As will

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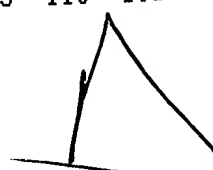
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be clear in the Remarks section below, the undersigned attorney will specifically show what claims are being argued and will point to specific language in the claims that is believed to patentably distinguish over the primary reference to Benko.

Each previously submitted independent claim remaining in this application, namely claims 9, 20 and 26, is being further slightly amended herein to even more clearly recite the nature of the invention. Moreover, a few additional claims are being submitted to further protect the Applicants' invention. Accordingly, the Remarks section herein will refer to the amended version of these claims and to the new claims as contained in this Supplemental Amendment And Supplemental Remarks when specifically pointing out why such claims are allowable, rather than refer to any earlier versions of such claims.

Since the filing of the Amendment on July 10, 1995, the undersigned attorney has received an International Search Report, conducted by the European Patent Office, in a corresponding PCT application filed for the purpose of preserving the Applicants' rights to file patent applications in various foreign countries. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is attached hereto to make of record the contents of the International Search Report.

In reviewing the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, the Examiner should keep in mind that the claims of the PCT application, for which the search was made, correspond to the original claims of the above-identified U.S. application, namely to original claims 1-19. Thus, the International Search Report results include various references which relate to drive systems for vehicles generally and are not directed to drive systems for riding mowers or turf maintenance vehicles. In the Restriction